Claims

1 1. A system for dispensing fuel, comprising:

2 a nozzle for dispensing the fuel;

3 a controller in communication with the nozzle for selectively causing the

4 nozzle to dispense the fuel;

5 a reader connected to the controller for reading data provided by a user

6 and transferring the data to the controller; and

7 a database for storing a record corresponding to the data that includes a

8 monetary value;

9 wherein, upon receipt of the data, the controller accesses the record and

10 causes the nozzle to dispense the fuel.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the data is dependent upon purchases

2 made by the user.

1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the data comprises optical data.

1 4. The system of claim 3, wherein the optical data comprises a bar code

2 included on a receipt provided to the user.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the data comprises magnetic data.

1 6. The system of claim 5, wherein the magnetic data comprises a magnetic

2 strip included on a card.

1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the record includes:

2   an index value corresponding to the data;

3   a date of creation of the record; and

4   a date of expiration of the record.

1 8. A computer implemented method for permitting a user to purchase fuel

2 from a fuel dispenser, comprising:

3   receiving payment from the user;

4   if the payment received from the user exceeds a purchase price of the fuel,

5   then providing the user with change in the form of a cash

6   equivalent.

1 9. The method of claim 8, further including:

2   creating a record in a database that includes an index value and a

3   monetary value.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the record further includes a date of

2 creation and a date of expiration for the record.

1 11. The method of claim 8, further including:

2   permitting the user to purchase fuel from the fuel dispenser using the cash

3 equivalent.

1 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the cash equivalent comprises a bar coded

2 representation of the change.

1 13. The method of claim 8, wherein the cash equivalent comprises a magnetic

2 representation of the change.

1   14.   A computer program stored in a memory device for permitting a user to
2   purchase fuel from a fuel dispenser, comprising instructions for:
3   receiving payment from the user;
4   if the payment received from the user exceeds a purchase price of the fuel,
5   then providing the user with change in the form of a cash
6   equivalent.

1   15.   The computer program of claim 14, further including instructions for:
2   creating a record in a database that includes an index value and a
3   monetary value.

1   16.   The computer program of claim 15, wherein the record further includes a
2   date of creation and a date of expiration for the record.

1   17.   The computer program of claim 14, further including instructions for:
2   permitting the user to purchase fuel from the fuel dispenser using the cash
3   equivalent.

1   18.   The computer program of claim 14, wherein the cash equivalent comprises
2   a bar coded representation of the change.

1   19.   The computer program of claim 14, wherein the cash equivalent comprises
2   a magnetic representation of the change.

1   20.   A database stored in a memory device for use in a fuel dispensing system
2   for permitting users to purchase fuel, comprising:

3   one or more records having:

4   corresponding index values; and

5   corresponding monetary values.

1   21.   The database of claim 20, wherein the records further include:

2   dates of creation; and

3   dates of expiration.

1   22.   The database of claim 20, wherein the monetary values correspond to

2   monies owed to the users due to prior purchases of fuel by the users.

1   23.   A receipt for use in a system for permitting users to purchase fuel from a

2   fuel dispenser, comprising:

3   a substrate; and

4   indicia coupled to the substrate representative of monies owed to the

5   users.

1   24.   The receipt of claim 23, wherein the indicia includes a bar coded

2   representation of the monies owed to the users.

1   25.   The receipt of claim 23, wherein the indicia includes a magnetic

2   representation of the monies owed to the users.